

NEWS BY THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Indo-China Co.'s steamship *Chalydra*, Capt. R. Carr, with the Calcutta mails, arrived in harbour this morning. We take the following items from our Calcutta exchange:—

THE FACILITIES TROUBLES.

BOMBAY, September 6th.
Major-General Miles commands the Mohand field force, and Colonel Westmacott commands the 1st Brigade, and Colonel MacGregor the 2nd Brigade.
The Government has accepted the offer of Punjab Chief of the assistance of Imperial Service troops, and 4,000 of them will immediately proceed to the front. The Jalpur-Gwalior transport lines are also being utilized.
Reliable reports from Beluchistan show that the recent disturbances there have been exaggerated. Only one post has been raided.

CALCUTTA, September 7th.
The Amir, replying to the British Agent at Cabul, has expressed his strong disapproval of the conduct of the tribesmen in creating disturbances on the frontier. He has also withdrawn troops from outlying posts, in order to keep them under the proper supervision of their officers.

BOMBAY, September 7th.
The Amir has given a fresh undertaking to severely punish any subjects joining Hadda Mullah. A gathering of 600 men at Lashkaran, to join Hadda Mullah, has been dispersed by the Amir's orders.
The British Khel post was attacked on Friday night by 300 tribesmen, who were beaten off by the levies holding the fort and finally dispersed by a detachment from Sedda.

CALCUTTA, September 8th.
The Patiala Imperial Service troops are being got ready with commendable smartness for the front. One infantry regiment left on Monday to join the Mohand Expedition. Two other regiments of infantry and cavalry have received orders to hold themselves in readiness. Great enthusiasm prevailed at the departure of the troops. The Maharajah of Patiala volunteered to accompany the troops. It is not yet known whether his offer has been accepted.

BOMBAY, September 8th.
The Amir has been losing three lakhs a month in Khylar Pass tolls, and has warned Hadda Mullah to desist.
An attack on the Gulsitan Post, Samana Range, has been repulsed with a British loss of three sepoy. The enemy's loss was 15 killed and wounded.
The flying column was fired on at Thil. The cavalry charged, killing five, and looting one troop.

Owing to the large mail transport required, the expedition to Thil, an Afid stronghold, cannot wait for tonight. It is hoped that the operations in the Mohand country will be completed meanwhile.

September 9th.
The 1st and 2nd Brigades are proceeding to the Mohand country. A determined resistance is expected.
The Maliks or tribal chiefs are alarmed at the preparations, and are offering a reward for any European brought in as a hostage.
The Afids are reported to be moving towards Samana. All posts are being strongly held.

CALCUTTA, September 10th.
It is understood that the Amir has been informed that the expedition against the Mohand has been undertaken with the object of punishing the raiders and also those sections of the tribes which took part in the recent killings. There is no intention of the Government to occupy the country permanently. No proclamation to that effect has been issued, but the political officer will make known the intention of the Government as the troops advance.

THE EDITORIAL CASES.
Mr. Justice Strachey and a special jury commenced the trial of the Amir on the 8th. The Advocate General and Mr. Macpherson prosecuted; Mr. Pugh, of Calcutta, and Mr. Dwyer defended. The prisoners pleaded not guilty. The Advocate-General read the passages complained of and declared that the prisoners had made an unfavourable comparison between the British rule and that of Shivali to excite disaffection in the minds of the people, and to justify attempts to overthrow British rule. He read translations from other articles, showing animosity on the part of the Amir towards the Government. Mr. Pugh objected that some of the extracts were only correspondence, and not editorial opinions. The Judge overruled this objection. The Calcutta Press petitioned the Government for sanction to prosecute Mr. Pugh, objecting that the document did not state the particular articles or dates of their appearance, and consequently the arrests were illegal, and the proceedings should stop. The Judge, holding that the sanction fulfilled the requirements of the Code, overruled the objection, and the cross-examination of the chief witness commenced.
[Shivali mentioned above was the founder of the Mahabharat Empire, which fell before the British arms. He murdered an enemy named Afid Khan, some say by treachery.]

The greater part of this morning was occupied in putting in and reading exhibits for the defence in the trial. They consisted mainly of extracts from the *Kurari*, showing the lawful object of the Shivali movement; Lord Rensy's support of it; reports of previous Shivali meetings; leading articles in the *Kurari* on the plague operations; a collection of constitutional measures in relation to the plague, extracts from the *Times of India* showing the attitude of Afid Khan by Shivali had been justified by Pargese and European correspondents; Tilk's letter to the *Times of India* asserting that he had co-operated in the work of the Plague Committee, and denying that his writings had been seditious; and a letter from the Private Secretary of the Governor, stating that His Excellency had read with interest Mr. Tilk's memorandum on the plague.

September 10th.
At the continuation of the trial of Tilk and Bal yesterday, the afternoon was occupied with the reading of further extracts to prove that the tone of the *Kurari* newspaper was usually loyal. The Oriental translator was cross-examined to show that the official translations were "too strong." He maintained that they were accurately done by the High Court translator.
The Oriental translator's examination having closed evidence proving the circulation of the *Kurari* on June 15th in Bombay and Tilk's proprietorship was given.

BOMBAY, September 11th.
On the Court resuming yesterday afternoon, Mr. Narayan Mahadeo Shastri was cross-examined to show that articles praising Shivali, couched in a similar language to those in the *Kurari*, are given in Marathi books sold at the Government depot, used in Government schools, and written by native Government officials. Tilk made a statement, saying in Marathi the offending passages, and alleged that the official translation was wrong. But he failed to establish that the policy of the *Kurari* and complained that Mr. Garb, a barrister of Calcutta, had not been allowed to defend him.
[The trial was concluded on the 11th instant. Mr. Tilk was found guilty and sentenced to 18 months' rigorous imprisonment.]

HIGHWAY ROBBERY IN KOWLOON.

Between seven and eight o'clock yesterday morning a Chinaman was stopped in Kowloon Road, about 100 yards from the boundary, by three highwaymen who stabbed him and robbed him of \$42.20. A report was made to the Police, who found the man in Chinese territory. He was lying on the ground, and had three dagger wounds on the left side of the abdomen. He was at once brought over to the Government Civil Hospital. It is believed that the wounds are not very serious and that the man will recover.

A "P & O" DIAMOND JUBILEE.

SINGAPORE, September 14th.
The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the oldest line of steamers connected with the Malay Peninsula, will, so far as Singapore is concerned, celebrate its Diamond Jubilee by extensive additions and alterations to the Company's premises at Teluk Blangah. Although the steamers which it owned had been running to Spanish ports for a year or two previous to that date, the Peninsular Company was founded in the year of the accession of our beneficent Sovereign, the Queen-Emress. But it was not until 1820 that the Company was expanded into the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, when it was incorporated by Royal charter. Practically, however, it was the same Company, though enlarged, and its foundation may fairly claim to date from the inauguration of its first mail service from Penang to Vico, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadix and Gibraltar, on August 22nd, 1827.
At that time the mails for Egypt were conveyed by the Peninsular Company to Gibraltair, then onwards by a small Government steamer to Malta, and thence to Alexandria by another Government vessel of equally limited tonnage and power. The consequence was that the transmission of the mails from England to Egypt occupied from three weeks to a month; and by the time the mails reached Bombay by the East India Company's steamers, which plied more or less irregularly between that port and Suez, nearly three months elapsed from the date of the leaving England. An accelerated service between Gibraltair and Alexandria which was attempted by Government steamers failed to give satisfaction, and in the end public tenders were invited for a service to replace the small and inefficient Admiralty Packets. As a result the Peninsular Company secured the contract.
The transit of the mails through Egypt was initiated by the enterprise of Capt. Waghorn, and from 1839 onwards much attention was being given to the necessity of a regular and comprehensive steam service with India, but it was not until the Peninsular Company took the matter to hand that this idea was actually carried into effect. Anticipating that the enterprise would prove a necessity of the age and that it would be likely materially to assist their Mediterranean service, the Company applied for and obtained their charter, dated December, 1844, under the style of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, on the condition, among others, in the absence of any established mail communication with India within two years from date. The *Hindustan* was the first steamer despatched by the Company to India, and her departure for Calcutta on 24th September, 1844, marked an epoch in the annals of steam navigation, the enterprise thus undertaken being publicly treated as one of national importance.

Although it was clearly intended by the Directors of the P. & O. Company to establish a mail service with Bombay, they were thwarted in this by the Directors of the East India Company, who, jealous of any interference with this particular line of communication, insisted on retaining it in their own hands until 1854. At the same time the lifting premiums awarded by the East India Co. for the voyages between Suez and Calcutta were quite inadequate to support a line of traffic of which was then in its infancy, and a period of the gravest anxiety and suspense was the result of this state of things. Fortunately, however, this was put an end to by the decision of the Government, fortified by the opinion of the East India Co., to establish steam communication not only with Ceylon, Madras and Calcutta, but also from Ceylon eastward to Singapore and Hongkong, in the interests of the India and China trade. Negotiations ensued which resulted in a mail contract being entered into with the P. & O. Company in 1844, and the Indian part of the service was commenced on January 1st, 1845. The extension of the line to China was accomplished during the same year, the *Lady Mary Wood* reaching Singapore on August 4th.

The difficulties of the P. & O. Company were thus so far overcome, and it was now firmly established on the long line of communication from Southampton to Calcutta, and from Ceylon to Hongkong. The mail service from its commencement has remained without interruption in the hands of the P. & O. Company, the only main branch broken until the Messageries Imperiales, the precursor of the Messageries Maritimes, appeared on the scene in 1853, or thereabouts, tardily followed by the Norddeutscher Lloyd in 1856. In 1854 full fortnightly communication was established with India and China, and a line was opened between Singapore and Sydney in connection with the China line, a steamer starting only once every two months. The character of Egyptian transit was changed in 1859 by the construction of a rail way across the Isthmus of Suez, and in 1856 the opening of the Suez Canal revolutionized the maritime commerce of the East, and involved the Company in a tedious dispute with the Port Office, who were utterly opposed to the Canal.

Notwithstanding the many arguments advanced against the success of the Canal by Englishmen, special engineers, and officials of all classes, it resulted in a serious loss of revenue to the P. & O. Co., and inevitable ruin seemed to stare them in the face. The Messageries Imperiales were to some extent in the same predicament, but the French Company had no difficulty in obtaining the consent of their Government to adopt this route, and did so at once. The British Government, however, refused to allow the P. & O. Company to do so unless they agreed to surrender \$50,000 of the amount of their subsidy. This the Directors naturally declined, and they proceeded to fight the question by sending their steamers through the Canal, after landing the mails at Alexandria, and picking up the identical mails at Suez, a proceeding which the Port Office was powerless to prevent, but which was regarded with the utmost disfavor in official circles. This state of tension continued for two years, when, at last, an arrangement was come to, by which the Company were allowed the use of the Canal on condition that \$50,000 should be deducted from the annual subsidy; so that it was not until 1859 that the Suez Canal was exclusively adopted as the mail route.

It would be impossible to define the numerous public and political advantages which have

resulted from the operations of the P. & O. Company, both in peace and war. Much of the rapid growth of our vast commerce with the Far East may not unreasonably be directly attributed to the energy and enterprise of the Directors, who have ever kept the improvement of the Company's services in view, and have at all times striven to harmonise its equipment with the requirements of the age. A further instance of this is to be found in the additions and alterations which will within the next few days be commenced on the Company's property at Teluk Blangah. Owing to the largely increasing cargo business of the Company, and also to the greater size of the vessels which will probably come out here under the new mail contract, commencing in February next, it has been found necessary to enter into a contract for extending the godown accommodation, for deepening the water along the whole length of the property, and for lengthening the wharves.

The work consists in building sea-walls at the east and west ends of the Company's property, and in reclaiming large areas of land which are at present useless. At each end of the reclamation will be built large iron godowns parallel to the sea-wall with roadways at front for receiving and at back for discharging cargo. The existing wharves will be repaired and greatly enlarged and improved, and the whole of the frontage will be dredged to a depth of 25 feet, below low water level at ordinary spring tides, so as to allow of steamers of greater draught being berthed at the wharves. At present there is a small shoal about 80 feet from the Eastern wharf which forms a serious impediment to vessels using the wharf. It has now been decided that this shall be removed, and it is intended to do so at once, this forming part of the work comprised in the contract which has been entered into. In carrying out the work it is proposed to cut away a part of the hill at the back of the wharves and use the earth for filling in the intended reclamations, the space thus made available being used for additional sea stores. The sea-wall will be built of granite and granite rubble concrete, and will be about 16 feet in height, the base, formed of large blocks of roughly dressed granite on a solid base of clay foundation, being about 7 feet in width. The top of the wall will be surmounted with a dressed granite coping, granite trolly ways running along the front from the jetties to the godowns. The new godown will be built entirely of steel, no wood being used in their construction, in order to keep away the ants; and the roofs will be formed of double thickness of corrugated iron with an air space between, so as to render them as cool as possible. The contract has been let to Messrs. Howarth, Erskine and Co., and the work is expected to be finished by December 31st, 1898. The extensions have been designed by Messrs. Swan and MacLaren, and Mr. Klinteborg, of the same firm will superintend the execution of the work.

THE AFGHAN WAR.

On the subject of the Indian frontier rising the *Times of India* says:—The Government of India were so long in making up their mind to re-appoint Colonel Waghorn as special duty in the Khyber that the Afidai rising occurred while they were considering his answer to their inquiry as to whether he was prepared to proceed to the Pass again. The net result is that Colonel Waghorn is not to be re-employed, the Government presumably holding that even he could not now influence the tribesmen. We do not go so far as to say that his presence in the Khyber would have prevented the outbreak altogether, but it is certainly a matter for regret that he was not sent there when the first signs of unrest appeared. His personal influence over the Afidai tribes might have kept many of them from committing themselves, and what is now a general rising might have been reduced to small dimensions. But optimistic views prevailed at Peshawar regarding the attitude of the tribes, and the Government of India were led astray by the reports of the "quiet state" of the border. Early in the following month, however, the news came back to the Political Officer in the Khyber that his old post, after he had expressed his willingness to return, the less turbulent class among the Afidai might have been kept in hand. Now our posts in the Khyber have been burned, the pass is closed, and the whole country side swarms with armed men. The Zalka and Malikind Khel tribesmen are swarming at all Masjid, while the men of other clans are moving off to try and raid British territory south of the Bara river. The success gained by the Afidai tribes in their recent operations is a very bad effect on all the tribes to the south of the Buzair and Bara valleys right down to Kurram, as the mullahs will make the most of the occupation of the Khyber.

The general opinion in India still appears to be that if the Amir is not directly responsible for the rising, he was at least cognizant of it, and that by holding himself aloof and affecting to take no action one way or the other in the matter, he encouraged the other frontier tribes to follow the example of the Tochi folk. His answers to the question put as to the truth of the rumored participation of Afghan troops in the attacks on British posts are regarded as unsatisfactory, and rumors are afloat of another letter having been sent to him asking him to give specific answers to specific questions, and to avoid generalities. At all events, it is considered as certain that had the Amir exercised his influence over the border tribes in favour of the British, he must have never have spread to its present dimensions. At all events, he has not kept his country in peace, and on that count he stands convicted.

There are, says the Lahore paper, persistent rumors afloat among the trading classes in Bannu, Hindustan, especially, that 5,000 to 7,000 Darwesh Khat Wazirs will swoop down upon the station and towns suddenly some night and sack and murder. It is further said that the emissaries, namely, especially, of Shindil Khan, Governor of Kohat, are secretly stirring up the Darwesh Khat, and that the attitude of the Kurram tribes and the Khazirwals has created a state of unrest among these Wazirs, who were previously indifferent. They are emboldened by the knowledge that the garrison of Bannu is very weak at present, and the inhabitants of that place are consequently very uneasy in their minds. As Bannu is only five miles from the frontier, its unprotected state might be worth the attention of the military authorities, and it is certainly surprising, if the Datta Khels and Wazirs ever meant business, that they have not raided the town before this. In our opinion, however, these enterprising gentry have already misused their market. Further, it may be said that those who elect to reside on the frontier must be content to take the risks of the frontier.

Disaffection appears to exist along the whole frontier, and as one outbreak is checked another takes place in another situation hitherto believed to be quiet. The officers of the Indian Army who are at present on leave are being recalled and the Military Authorities appear to have made up their minds that they have got a tough job in hand to execute.
The "Mad" Mullah, of Malakand fame, is said to be a Buzerwal and a disciple of the Ahmud of Sait. He was against us in the Umbeyla campaign, and latterly has been a wanderer, visiting various Mahomedan countries. He is said to be a very old man and "fairly learned, being able to read and write."

LATE TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, September 4th.
Several German papers comment caustically on the recent speech of Emperor William reaffirming his "Kingly duty of grace of God." The Emperor William and the Empress, with the Duke of Cambridge, met the King and Queen of Italy at Hamburg yesterday, when most cordial greetings were exchanged.

September 5th.
At a banquet, following the grand review of troops, Emperor William proposed the toast of the King and Queen of Italy, and said that their visit showed the world that the Triple Alliance, which was established in the interests of peace, remained unshaken. King Humbert, in reply, said he was glad of an opportunity to be a first testimony to the Alliance, which he would ever loyally support in the maintenance of peace.

PARIS, September 5th.
The *Times*, in a leading article regarding the Anglo-Egyptian advance in the Sudan, warns England that, if she forgets her engagements, she will at the end be obliged to admit that she is not the only one interested in the future of the Sudan.

The French Press observes that the rising of the tribesmen on the Indian Frontier makes France think seriously of the possible propagation of a wave of fanaticism in her own Colonies. The *Times* says that there is little doubt that the Imperial Service troops will prove no mere parade of soldiers, but a valuable element of defence of the Empire. The *Times* generally denounces the theory that our forward policy on the frontier is the cause of the present troubles.

Prince Hohenzollern, German Chancellor, and Count Eulow, Foreign Minister, have conferred at Hamburg with Signor Venosta, the Italian Foreign Minister, on all pending questions, and it is understood that Italy and Germany are agreed on the main points.

LONDON, September 7th.
The *Times* Simla correspondent states that the Amir's troops have dispersed two gatherings of tribesmen.

September 8th.
The Derwishes have evacuated Berber, and retired to Mettemeh. Friendly Arabs now occupy the Berber grain stores. Colonel Hunter has gone to Berber with four gunboats.

A quantity of iron bridging and transport material is going to India to replace the wooden structures on the frontier.

Five more surgeons have been ordered to India.

September 9th.
It is now totally denied that the Sultan has sent any letter to the Amir.
The Congress of Orientalists in Paris have appointed a Committee to arrange for the publication of an Encyclopedia of Mahomedan Literature and Archeology. The Congress has passed a vote of thanks to the Government of India for the preservation of works of art and historical remains in the Swat Valley, and hoped the Government would continue its efforts in the same direction.

NEWS BY THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

LONDON, August 28th.
The *Times* publishes a letter this morning, under the signature of "An Admirer," in which the writer expresses the desirability of substituting H.M.S. *Minerva*, a weakly-armed second-class cruiser, for the powerfully-armed *Orlando*, as flagship on the Australian station. "Admiral" trusts that the *Minerva* will be fitted with 6 inch guns before leaving for Australia.

A portion of the post office at Luncborough, county Longford, Ireland, was yesterday destroyed by an explosion. It is supposed that the explosion was caused by dynamite.
In the Spanish Cortes yesterday General Azcarra, the Premier and Minister for War, announced that he intended to adopt the home and foreign policy of the late Premier, Senor Canovas del Castillo. The Premier added that the Cuban rebellion was approaching the end, and that he had warned the United States not to interfere.

Major Lohrke, who put to death the British trader Stokes, and who returned to the Upper Congo after his acquittal by the Belgian Courts of the murder, is now managing the Belgian Company's rubber and ivory trade at Mogalia. The Transvaal Volksraad has fixed the salary of members at £1200 a year.

LONDON, August 20th.
The members of the Transvaal Second Raad are indignant at the increase in salary which the members of the Volksraad have passed for themselves, raising the remuneration of each member to £1200 per annum. They declare they will refuse to sanction the increase.

The Emperor William of Germany has banqueting the King of Siam. The King of Siam, in the course of his speech at the function, thanked the Kaiser for the great help he had given in establishing post-offices, telegraphs and railways in Siam.

A formal alliance between Russia and France was declared after interviews between the Tsar and President Faure, and between Count Muraviev and M. Hanotaux, the Russian and French Foreign Ministers respectively. The event has occasioned general rejoicings in Paris, and the President's return on Tuesday will be celebrated by street decorations and by great illuminations at night. The Government have also proclaimed Tuesday a national holiday. The European newspapers consider that the Franco-Russian alliance will prove fatal to Germany's aspirations to maintain the preponderance among the Powers. The German newspapers are reserved in their comments on the alliance. Many of the papers, however, express willingness to join in the congratulations, because the phrase used by the Tsar was that "a fresh bond had been created between two friendly and allied nations who were equally resolved to maintain peace." This the papers regard merely as a reference by the Tsar to the maintenance of the world's peace in a spirit of justice and equity. Some of the European newspapers believe that the new alliance is of an offensive and defensive character, and replaces the military defensive alliance, signed by M. de Giers and M. Camille-Perier. M. Hanotaux remains at St. Petersburg for some days, conferring with Count Muraviev.

Further dispatches with regard to the trouble on the Indian frontier state that the Kohat artillery have shelled the Orakzai, who were attacking the Mahabads Post, in the Upper Pass. Under cover of this fire the infantry stormed and captured the position held by the Orakzai, compelling the tribesmen to retreat upon Colan. The rebels have cut the railway line in two places, and native infantry have been dispatched to defend the line. The presence of the force under Colonel Sir Bindon Blood in the Malakand Pass has greatly excited the Bunerwals, who have prepared to defend the entrance into their territory. Fanatics are urging the Bunerwals to attack Colonel Blood's column. The Upper Swat tribes have paid the fine of 20,000 rupees (about £12,500) inflicted upon them for their attack upon the British at Shabkade. The Swat Valley is now quiet. Quetta is asking for reinforcements, as the Bunerwals are increasing, the fort being inadequate and the garrison weak. The Orakzais have captured Fort Gullistan in the Swat Valley.

The Indian Government have requested the Amir of Afghanistan to specifically answer certain questions as to the Afghans and the revolt, and to avoid making merely general explanations in his reply.

LONDON, August 31st.
The Kaiser has reviewed the Eighth Army Corps at Coblenz, and at a banquet held subsequently delivered a speech upon the great events with which the locality has been associated. He declared the Rhinelanders were as ready for duty, as efficient, and as brave now as they were under the great Emperor William I.

LODOW, September 1st.
On his return from St. Petersburg yesterday President Faure received a most enthusiastic reception. An address of welcome was presented to the President. In his reply President Faure said that democracy had restored the country to its true rank. The establishment of a union between two great countries like France and Russia was one of the most important events of the close of the century.

The letter from Lord Salisbury to the German Government, in which the intention of Great Britain to denounce the commercial treaty with Germany is announced, has been published. Lord Salisbury points out that the existence of the treaty constitutes a barrier against internal financial arrangements, and is inconsistent with the efforts which have been put forth to draw the ties of commercial intercourse between Great Britain and her colonies closer, which, he says, are necessary in order to consolidate the Empire. The *Times* says that it is feared that many lives will be lost along the various routes to the Klondyke goldfield before the abatement of the crisis.

The special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, who has visited the White Pass, Klondyke, wires that there are 7000 men and 2000 animals blocked between the summit of the pass and the sea, a distance of 13 miles, while hundreds arrive daily. Dead horses and abandoned stores are strewn along the route. He also states that the accounts of large quantities of gold having been obtained have been grossly exaggerated, there being nothing to warrant a rush. The cost of working the claims is enormous. The correspondent adds that the Pacific coast is "gold crazy." The New York *Herald's* correspondent gives a similar account of the field.

The death is announced of Lord Inverurie, the eldest son of the Earl of Kintore; aged 20.

The French Minister for Marine, Admiral Benaud, has ordered two armoured cruisers of 175 tons each, the vessels to have a speed of 21 knots.

The Marquis of Londonderry, in addressing the farmers of the County of Durham, last night, said that the Government permitted the importation of foreign butter to an unrestricted degree. Seventy-five per cent. of the imported butter was Danish, and dairy farming in Great Britain could not, as a result, be carried on profitably.

ADLAIDE, August 31st.
All the local Federation delegates have gone to Sydney for the meeting of the Federation Convention, which commences this week.

Mr. Rudall, who was engaged in the search for the lost members of the Calvert Exploration Party, has returned here and been publicly welcomed.

Subscriptions for the widow and children of the late Chas. Wells are expected to reach a thousand pounds.

Splendid rains have fallen throughout the whole of the colony, including Bismarck. The prospects are very significant.

The will of the late Sir Henry Ayers has been proved at £26,000.

MELBOURNE, Aug. 31st.
Mr. Ben Tillett, the English labour leader, arrived here on Saturday morning, and was met at Spencer-street station by a large number of gentlemen connected with labour interests, who welcomed him at luncheon. Mr. Tillett, who was warmly received, replying to the toast of his health, said he felt glad to meet the men in this country who had helped in the great work which had put three-quarters of a million into the hands of the great organisations of the old country, and showed the capitalists and workers of England a new power in the organisation of mankind, and gave the workers a new hope. He thanked the workers of Australia for the aid they had sent to the dockers' movement, and he hoped the unity of labour would be soon universal. As to the breaking of the banks, this was an old dodge of the capitalists. The workers were the greatest losers, and they lost all their savings, but the money was never lost. If some labour gained, and some one gained in the smashing of the banks, he trusted they would send home a representative to the Trades Conference in England, and he trusted that the time would come when one would be sent annually. In the evening Mr. Tillett addressed a large gathering at the Trades Hall.

A scene occurred in the Legislative Assembly yesterday, with the result that a member, named, and a motion for his suspension proposed. Mr. Stephens, during the debate on the Land Bill, characterized the appointment of the recent Land Commission as an act of bribery and corruption. The Speaker at once called the member to order, and demanded the withdrawal of the words. This Mr. Stephens refused to do, and the Speaker thereupon named him to the House.

Sir Horace Tovey moved that Mr. Stephens be suspended for 24 hours. The motion was, however, negatived on the voices, labour members being against the suspension. Sir Horace Tovey, seen afterwards, said he did not press for a division on the motion as it was evident that it would be defeated in a thin House. He regarded Mr. Stephens' action as an attempt to insult the Chair.

THE HUNT FOR MAT SALLEH.

It is understood (in Singapore) that the Governor of British North Borneo is communicating with the High Commissioner of Borneo (Sir Charles Mitchell) in order to devise measures for the better dealing with Mat Salleh and the large band of predatory cut-throats under his command, who have been recently raiding Gaya and other villages in North Borneo. The freebooter is, it may be borne in mind, really a subject of the Sultan of Brunei, and is an interloper in the territories within which he has made himself such a nuisance. It is pretty well known where he is, and though we do not know the nature of the proposals made from Sandakan, yet these may probably take the form of asking for the assistance of military police, or perhaps some little artillery, in order to capture Mat Salleh, destroy his stronghold, and break up his following. Some help in this way was given in 1888, in the case of Pangasinan Shabbader's revolt on the Padar river, when a 7-pdr gun and gun detachment was sent from the Perak Sikhs to the British North Borneo Government. Probably a company, or two companies, of Malay Sikhs, with a couple of 7-pdrs, and a rocket tube, would be the form in which assistance might be asked, with the concurrence of the Resident-General, speaking for the respective Governments of the Federated Native States. The opportunity would not be a bad one to show that we have in the peninsula a force quite prepared to act outside of it if called upon. It is certainly a part of the responsibilities of the High Commissioner to use his power for the maintenance of order throughout his entire jurisdiction, and, if required, to invite the forces of one or more of the jurisdictions to come to the aid of any other.—*Singapore Free Press.*

NOTANDA.

CALENDAR.

SEPTEMBER.
Meteorological means based on ten years' observations to 1888.
Barometer 30.88
Thermometer 80.2
Humidity 77
Rainfall 5.8

TO-DAY.

WEATHER REPORT.
On date at 10 a.m. On date at 4 p.m.
Barometer 30.02 30.00
Thermometer 87 86
Humidity 87 71
Rainfall

TO-DAY.

Friday, 24th September, 1897.
Chinese—8th of 8th moon of 25th year of Kwong-shi.
Jewish—27th Elul, 1887.
Mohammedan—8th Rabi' II, 1316.
Sun—Rises 5hr. 51min.
Sets 5hr. 15min.
High water—Morning 5hr. 15min.
Afternoon 5hr. 18min.
Low water—Morning 5hr. 50min.
Afternoon 5hr. 53min.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1853—Hongkong Government Gazette first published.
1868—H.M.S. *Rattler* lost off the coast of Japan.
1879—Private attack on the barque *Apenrade*, near Macao.
1877—The Satsuma rebels routed, their leader killed and the rebellion quelled.
1895—Outbreak of bubonic plague in Bombay.

TO-MORROW.

Saturday, 25th September, 1897.
Chinese—9th of 8th moon of 25th year of Kwong-shi.
Jewish—28th Elul, 1887.
Mohammedan—9th Rabi' II, 1316.
Sun—Rises 5hr. 51min.
Sets 5hr. 15min.
High water—Morning 5hr. 50min.
Afternoon 5hr. 53min.
Low water—Morning 5hr. 50min.
Afternoon 5hr. 53min.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1848—The Hungarian War of Independence commenced.
1877—Lucknow relieved by General Havelock.
1870—Siege of Paris commenced.
1871—Lund regulations for Canton passed.
1873—Armed attack on a shop in Wing-tek Street.
1890—Disastrous storm at Kagoshima, Japan.
1893—The Legislative Council voted \$95,000 for gas extension in Hongkong.

MEMORANDA.

TO-MORROW—25th September.
Noon—Meeting of shareholders of the Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd., at the Company's office, No. 17, Praya Central.
2.30 p.m.—Auction at Mount Austin Hotel.
4.20 p.m.—Gymkhana at Happy Valley.

SHARE MARKET.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, 178 per cent. prem.; China Fire, \$106; China Sugar, \$145; Balmores, \$1.50; Raub, \$21; Dock Co., 225 per cent. prem.; Hongkong Hotel, \$42.

SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAILED DUE:
French (*Caladone*) 28th inst.
American (*Cypria*) 29th inst.
Australian (*Australasia*) 30th prox.
English (*Thames*) 1st prox.
Canadian (*Empress of China*) 6th prox.
German (*Sachsen*) 21st prox.

We are informed by the Agents (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.) that the E. & A. S. Co.'s steamer *Australian* from Sydney, left Port Darwin for this port yesterday.

The O. & O. S. Co.'s steamer *Gaith* with mails, etc., left San Francisco for this port, via Honolulu, Yokohama, Island Sea, Kobe, Nagasaki and Shanghai, on the 21st inst.

The China Mutual Steam Navigation Co.'s steamer *Kinchin* from Glasgow and Liverpool, left Singapore for this port yesterday evening, and may be expected here on or about the 29th inst.

The P. M. S. S. Co.'s steamer *City of Peking* with mails, etc., which left Hongkong 24th inst. for San Francisco via Amoy, Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Island Sea, Yokohama and Honolulu, arrived at her destination on the 21st inst.

